

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-02 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7012

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TPHY, SOCI, BENC, NI

SUBJ: FEDERAL CAPITAL STATUS

REF : STATE 229703

SUMMARY: THIS BRINGS UP TO DATE STATUS VARIOUS ASPECTS NIGERIA'S
NEW CAPITAL AFTER TWO USG VISITS. END SUMMARY.

1. COUNTRY-FINANCED SERVICES:

A. USGS TEAM: HIGHLY-QUALIFIED THREE-MAN TEAM WHICH
ARRIVED SEP. 20 MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON EMBASSY AND CDA AND
MANAGED TO COMPLETE MISSION BY SEP. 25 DESPITE LAST-MINUTE CHANGE
OF MOSLEM HOLIDAY FROM SEP 27 TO 24-25. TEAM WILL COMPILE REPORTS
FOR USG AND CDA. POSSIBLY MAIN OUTCOME OF VISIT WAS EBONG REALI-
ZATION THAT CONSIDERABLY MORE BASIC DATA NECESSARY BEFORE DETAILED
PLANNING CAN BEGIN. TEAM ALSO CLARIFIED FOR CDA LIMITATIONS OF
LANDSAT, WHOSE CAPABILITIES APPARENTLY OVERRATED BY CDA. TEAM
FOUND FMG FEDERAL AND GEOLOGIC SURVEYS EQUIPPED WITH BEST EQUIP-
MENT AND STAFFED WITH QUITE CAPABLE AND DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS
BUT INEXPERIENCED AND THIN IN PLACES. GEOLOGIC SURVEY AND
CDA'S EBONG SEEM TO FAVOR FURTHER USGS ACTIVITY HERE.
TENTATIVELY, TEAM THOUGHT BEST USGS ROLE WOULD BE MANAGERIAL
SERVICES FOR GEOLOGIC SURVEY (WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY OPPOR-
TUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL SURVEY SERVICES) BUT IT BEST TO
AWAIT REPORT, WHICH WILL IDENTIFY NEEDS, PRIORITIES,
RESOURCES AND SPELL OUT LANDSAT APPLICATIONS AND SCHEDULING.

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EBONG, GEOLOGIC SURVEY DIRECTOR OKEZIE AND POSSIBLY OTHER SURVEY

OFFICIALS PLAN TO VISIT USGS IN WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 29.

B. PROFESSOR MITCHELL: VISITING AF/W DESK OFFICER
PATRICK EXPLAINED TO EBONG REASONS FOR MITCHELL INABILITY
VISIT NIGERIA SOONER AS WELL AS WHAT SHE KNOWS OF HIS
APPROACH. EBONG SEEMED SATISFIED.

2. PLANNERS: MRS. PATRICK, WHO IS HIGHLY-REGARDED BY CDA
OFFICIALS SHE HOSTED IN WASHINGTON, PERSUASIVELY EXPLAINED
USG REFUSAL LIST POTENTIAL PLANNERS IN RESPONSE EBONG REQUEST
OF MAY. EBONG RESPONDED THAT HE HAD GIVEN UP ON US AND IS
COMPILING OWN LIST, WHICH HE SAYS WILL INCLUDE AMERICAN
FIRMS. AFTER EXPOSURE THIS YEAR TO MANY PLANNERS EBONG IS
DEVELOPING OWN EXPERTISE; FOR EXAMPLE, HE OBSERVED THAT
EDWARD DURELL STONE FIRM IS BETTER ARCHITECT THAN PLANNER,
COMMENT WE HEAR FROM OTHER PROFESSIONALS THIS FIELD. EBONG
ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD HOPED TO GET PROFESSOR MITCHELL'S
OPINION ON PLANNERS.

3. ADVERTISING FOR CDA ARCHITECT/ PLANNER AND CHIEF
ENGINEER: EBONG WITHDREW REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, SAYING
BRITAIN'S ROYAL INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS WILL ADVERTISE
FOR CDA IN BOTH UK AND US. HE SAID HE HAD SIGNED AUTHORI-
ZATION LTR TO INSTITUTE SAME DAY MRS. PATRICK CALLED ON
HIM (SEP. 22) AND THAT ADS WOULD BE PLACED IN NY AND LA
TIMES, WALL ST. JOURNAL AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS.

4. BECHTEL: COMMENTING ON BECHTEL CABLE SAYING COMPANY
TEAM WILL DISCUSS PLANNING AND ENGINEERING, EBONG INDICATED
HE NOT RPT NOT CONSIDERING BECHTEL FOR PLANNING BUT FOR
ENGINEERING, FIELD IN WHICH FIRM HIGHLY-REGARDED. SUB-
SEQUENTLY, EMBASSY RECEIVED ON SEP. 26 BECHTEL CDA PROPOSALS
WHICH SEEM TO SPEAK OF SUPERVISING OVERALL PLANNING. PRO-
POSALS DELIVERED CDA SEP. 27 BUT MIGHT NOT BE SEEN UNTIL
CDA OFFICIALS RETURN FROM IBADAN SEP. 30. ON OTHER ASPECTS
BECHTEL VISIT, EMBASSY STILL AWAITING RESPONSE FROM MININDUS-
TRIES JODA; AMBASSADOR AND MRS. EASUM REGRETFULLY MUST
WITHDRAW FROM OCT. 3 DINNER (STATE 238933) BECAUSE OF UNEXPECTED
ABSENCE FROM LAGOS OCT. 3-4. IF BECHTEL GROUP STILL DESIRES
BAGATELLE DINNER, CAHILLS AND CLEWS WILL ATTEND AND WILL ALSO
BRIEF GROUP MORNING OCT. 4. PLEASE PASS CONTENTS THIS PARA
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BECHTEL.
EASUM

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